The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The secret of success is constancy of purpose.—Disraeli.

WHOLE NO. 1160 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 1 1933 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 23, NO. 17

Green Urges Thirty-Hour Week And $14 to $16 Minimum Wage For the Cotton Textile Industry

A. F. of L. Chief Says $10 to $11 Minimum Pay Proposed by Cotton Manufacturers for Industrial Code Is too Low to Enable Workers to Buy the Decent Living Recommended by President Roosevelt—Forty-Hour Week Will Not Provide Jobs Enough to Meet the Terrible Unemployment Situation.

Washington.—The fair competition code for the cotton goods industry should fix a minimum weekly wage of between $14 and $16 and a maximum work week of thirty hours.

This is what William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, told the National Industrial Recovery Administration at the hearings held on the code presented by the cotton manufacturers demanding the forty-hour week, a $10 minimum wage in Southern mills and $11 in Northern mills.

"I am of the opinion that the forty-hour work week as set forth in the Industrial Code does not of itself serve to keep about a reduction of the primary purpose of the Industrial Recovery Act," Mr. Green said in beginning his statement against the low wages and long hours proposed by the cotton manufacturers.

"I think an investigation would disclose the fact that it would change very little the hours of labor now being worked in the textile mills of New England. It would, I think, change the number of hours of work very considerably in the Southern States. What we need to do is to adjust the hours of labor so that the slack of unemployment may be taken up.

Six-Hour Day and Five-Day Week

"I am of the opinion that the code should provide for a six-hour day and a five-day week. That should be the basic hours of labor in the textile industry. I am of the opinion that such an adjustment of the number of hours worked per day and the number of days per week in the textile industry is necessary if that great industry is to do its part in taking up the slack in unemployment.

"I want to make my position quite clear, that in proposing the six-hour day and the five-day week I do not have in mind any limitations placed upon the operation of mills and plants. If it is necessary in order to serve the trade to work two shifts or three shifts or even four, I think that should be permitted, because it is only by bringing on a new crew for new shifts that we will be able to take up the slack of unemployment, and I am sure it is not the purpose of the Industrial Recovery Act to impose any limitation upon production.

Minimum Wage Between $14 and $16

"On the minimum rates of pay, I am of the opinion that, admirable as the suggestion is as made in this code, the minimum rates of pay are altogether too low. I am not sure that the minimum rate of $11 will change the minimum rate now in effect in the New England mills. That is a fact that could be disclosed and would be disclosed, I think, by an investigation. But my information is that the rate of $11 a week in New England would change the rate now in effect very little.

"The purpose of the Act, as I understand it, is to reduce the hours of labor for the purpose of supplying a remedy for unemployment and to develop purchasing power so that we can find a market for the manufactured goods.

"I should think the minimum rates of pay should be somewhere between $14 and $16 per week, if we are to develop purchasing power."

Shorter Hours and Higher Wages

"Industrial codes are the method selected to realize the purposes of the National Industrial Recovery Act," Mr. Green continued.

"To recover from depression and deflation, business activity must regain 36 per cent, consumer buying power must recapture $30,000,000,000 loss since 1929, and over 12,500,000 persons must find employment which will provide them with income.

"To provide the necessary jobs, the available work hours must be better distributed. To increase buying power, industrial wages must be raised. In addition to the results from making these two policies general, new employment under the public works section of the act will provide purchasing power for materials and incomes for those employed. Only when the industrial machine begins to produce and consumers have the money to buy will business activity return to full time.

"In fixing minimum wages and maximum hours in the cotton goods industry, we must be guided by the purposes of the Recovery Act."

Real Living Wage

Declaring that "one of the controlling considerations in fixing wages is to give the worker a living wage," Mr. Green stressed the statement made by President Roosevelt when he signed the Industrial Recovery Act that "no business is privileged which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country," and emphasized the President's additional statement that "by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence compared with a decent living."

$10 to $11 Wage Too Low

The code presented by the cotton industry, he said, with its minimum wage of $10 for Southern mill workers and $11 for northern workers, would by no means buy the decent living mentioned by the President and demanded by the organized labor movement.

He pointed out that according to reliable studies made to determine the amount necessary for a worker's family of five to buy a decent living, summarized in 1929 by Professor Nystrom of Columbia University and brought up to date with living costs as of December, 1932, "the minimum necessary to support a family of five in health and decency is $31 a week. With an $11 wage, even if two people in a family were working full time, they couldn't possibly keep their family in health and efficiency.

"Dr. Nystrom's bare subsistence wage is $26.77 at present prices. But at $11 a week, both father and mother working could not even support their family on a bare subsistence level; they would be forced to send one or more of their children to work. Do we want to establish a wage which will force child labor?"

Low Wages in Cotton Industry

Department of Labor figures were submitted by Mr. Green showing the average full-time wages in the cotton industry had slipped from $17.20 in 1924 to $17.48 in 1926, $17.30 in 1928, $17.36 in 1930, and to $14.29 in 1932.

"Although the average hourly wage of week in 1932 was only $14.29," he said, "reports from the Labor Department for the month of May, 1933, show that at present the average weekly wage actually being received by the workers in cotton goods is $10.40.

Compared With Other Industries

Mr. Green strongly emphasized the fact that wages in the cotton textile industry are exceedingly low compared with wages in other industries.

"The average wage being paid in the cotton goods industry today (May, 1933) is $10.40 a week," he said. "We have pay envelopes as low as $4.54 for 62½ hours.

"This average of $10.40 is lower than that of any other of the 104 industries reported by the U. S. Labor Department for May, 1932, save only one—shirts and collars—which pays $9.50 a week. The average wage being paid in all manufacturing industries in May, 1933, was $17.40 a week. Wages in twenty-nine industries average over $20 a week, and two industries pay an average of $30 a week or more.

End Low Wage Standards

"The cotton goods industry has to make up a long standing deficit to the workers. That is, this industry has failed to contribute its proportionate share to the Nation's purchasing power.

"Shall we allow this industry to continue to profit by wage cuts that will maintain high standards in this country without making its rightful contribution?

"The well-paid workers in printing, railroads, building, etc., are the greatest purchasers of this industry's products. The cotton goods industry could not exist unless wage earners and their families were able to buy overalls, shirts, dresses, sheets, towels, curtains, etc.

"On the other hand, textile workers do not have incomes adequate to buy the cotton clothing they need, to say nothing of the sheets they make, or even the power they use to start recovery in the automobile industry, in home building, in mechanical refrigeration, radio, books, magazines, movies, etc."

Thirty-Hour Week Necessary

Mr. Green's condemnation of the forty-hour maximum work week proposed by the cotton manufacturers was equally as emphatic as his attack on their $10 and $11 minimum wage. He insisted that the thirty-hour week was necessary adequately to meet the great emergency of unemployment.

"Since the work available at the May level in industry generally," he said, "would provide only 25.6 hours per week for all who need work, clearly a week much longer than thirty hours will not answer the purpose of getting the unemployed back to work.

"It would not be just to establish one work week for the cotton goods industry and another for the steel or leather or other industries. The fair way is to set a standard and have everyone conform to it.

No More Slacking

"A forty-hour week in cotton goods at the May rate of operations, would put 69,760 men and women to work. A thirty-hour week would put 310,580 to work. A thirty-two-hour week, 175,000. Textiles should now begin to do their share.

"To bring hourly wage standards in cotton goods up to the level of the industries would require doubling hourly wage rates. The average hourly wage paid in cotton goods in May was 21.6 cents per hour; the average for all manufacturing was 42.3 cents.

"Of the 104 industries reported by the Labor Department for May, one only paid wages less than 30 cents an hour. The large majority paid over 40 cents per hour. Only two paid as low a wage as the cotton goods industry.

Stop Long Hours

Department record.

"The average hourly wage rate in cotton goods has decreased since January by five-tenths of one cent an hour, a 3 per cent average loss in five months. The only gain to workers has been from lengthening work hours. Workers' weekly income in cotton increased from $9.54 in March to $10.40 in May, but the increase was due entirely to the increase in hours.

"The way to stop long hours and low wages is to establish a minimum hour week and a minimum wage scale. Then, as hours are shortened, employers will be forced to put on more workers instead of working a few workers overtime.

"Cotton mill wages at the May, 1933, level represent a loss from 1929 of $153,500,000 a year in workers' buying. This huge deficit cannot but have a paralyzing effect on the sales of all consumer industries. It constitutes one of the reasons why in May, 1933, manufacturers' sales of cotton goods were 25 per cent below the average for 1929.

"Giving cotton goods workers higher pay and shorter hours," Mr. Green concluded, "will greatly increase the efficiency of the industry and raise the value produced per worker to a far higher level. This in itself will help to defray the cost of higher wages.

Frey Attacks $10-$11 Minimum Wage, 40-Hour Week, for Textile Workers

Washington.—John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, told the National Industrial Recovery Administration, in the hearings on the fair competition code for the cotton textile industry, that the forty-hour maximum work week proposed by the cotton manufacturers is altogether too long and their $10 and $11 minimum wage too small to establish a normal, healthy economic balance.

Mr. Frey supported his claim by elaborate statistics regarding wages, hours, output, and unemployment in industry generally and in the textile industry specifically.

Concerning the cotton goods industry he presented the following statistical picture to assist the Administration in deciding what the hours of labor and the minimum wage should be:

Employes and Wages

"In 1925 there were 445,000 employes in the cotton goods industry. In 1932 that had been reduced to 307,000. That is a reduction of 31 per cent in the number of those employed.

"In 1925 the total volume of wages paid in the textile industry was $354,000,000. In 1927 it was $325,000,000. That is $29,000,000 less in wages paid in 1927 than the textile industry paid in 1925, which is about the same proportionate reduction that took place in the manufacturing industries as a whole.

"Now, there are some things which cannot be proved to you mathematically. It is impossible to prepare statistics which would enable you to accurately measure the relationship in hours in any industry should be in order to maintain a given volume of production. There should be the exact dollars and cents wage, because there are two variables, and those two variables are as influential in their effect on the textile industry, if not more so, than they are on any industry in the country.

Machinery and Employment

"The textile industry is subject to the same increased use of machinery, new machinery, more automatic machinery, as the others, and then, in addition to that, the textile industry is more profoundly affected by its export trade.

"The number of employes in the textile industry indicates that they fell off 31 per cent from 1925 to 1932, but those are not the most accurate statistics to indicate just what has taken place. There is another matter of equal importance, and that is the consumption of cotton in the textile industry to produce its manufactured goods, and I find that between 1925 and 1932 the consumption fell off 22 per cent.

Increased Output Per Capita Production

"Now, we find that while consumption fell off 22 per cent the number of employes fell off 31 per cent, which is proof that the employes who remained were increasing their per capita production during that period from 1925 to 1929. They were producing more and more during the same hours of labor.

Exports of Textile Goods

"Now, we find that our exports in the textile industry play a very important part. In 1925 they amounted to $85,000,000. In 1932 they had gone down to $27,000,000. They fell off 68 per cent from 1925 to 1932.

"The exports of all characters of cotton goods outside of textiles was very similar. In 1925 our total exports of all cotton goods was $146,000,000. In 1932 we had decreased to $45,000,000, a decrease of 69 per cent. There are some things which we cannot tell with any assurance, but there is, nevertheless, good ground for believing that our country will not recover this export business for many years to come.

"So far as the textile industry is concerned, the spindles and looms in Japan and in China and in India have had the same effect upon the exports of textile goods from Great Britain as it has had upon us.

"So the textile industry cannot look to the volume of export business which it had only a few years ago to keep it going in the future. It must look more and more to the domestic market for practically the greater portion of its manufactured output.

Hours and Wages

"That being so, it is all the more necessary that the textile industry should regulate itself in regard to hours of labor and its minimum wage rate so that it will assume its share of responsibility for those who had been wage earners in the industry, because it seems to me that if any one of our American industries fails to take over its own share of responsibility it is merely unloading upon the other industries the responsibility of taking up that slack of unemployment.

"In substance that is what I desire to present. I wanted these statistics to go into the record because they have a very vital bearing not only upon the future of the depression but upon what must be done if we are going to effect a practical readjustment."

McMahon Asks 35-Hour Week, $14 Minimum Wage for Textile Workers

Washington.—A maximum thirty-five hour week and $14 minimum wage for the cotton goods industry in both North and South, with no exception of any kind, was urged by Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, in a statement at the hearings on the fair competition code for the cotton-textile industry held by the Industrial Recovery Administration. The code submitted by the manufacturers called for a minimum wage of $10 to $11, the basic forty-hour week with the forty-hour week.

In defense of his $14 minimum, Mr. McMahon declared:

"We contend that the minimum wage, at whatever figure it may be, must provide for no exceptions. We object to the figures now before us as being totally inadequate. Where the workers be possessed of special skill, or of no special skill.

"First of all, some degree of skill is required of all labor. Second, it must be desired by the administrator to fix a minimum wage that shall be an economically sound wage, a wage that shall contribute to the general purchasing power and that, as a consequence, shall fit into the general national scheme of recovery contemplated in the act under which we are proceeding.

"It cannot be contended, even by the most rabid, that $10 a week provides a sound wage for any worker, regardless of degree of skill. It cannot be desired by the administrator to fix any particular group among our people or to force any group below a level of decency."

Thirty-five-Hour Week

In justifying his proposal for a thirty-five-hour maximum work week in place of the forty-hour week proposed by the manufacturers, Mr. McMahon said:

"A forty-hour week will bring about the reemployment of all those normally engaged in the industry within the spirit, purpose and intent of the President's rehabilitation program.

"A forty-hour schedule, with the present stretch-out system, operates to cast an undue physical burden upon a class of workers that have been too long oppressed.

Government Attitude on Hours Cited

"Such a schedule is inconsistent with the Government's pronouncement of a shorter work week as a condition of the provisions of the public works program wherein a thirty-hour week is fixed as a maximum.

"Figures of the Department of Labor indicate, contrary to the figures heretofore submitted, that the number of persons presently employed in the industry is approximately 347,000.

"Proponents of the suggested code state that the adoption of a forty-hour weekly schedule will permit of the absorption of all those now ally engaged in the industry. This we contend to be inaccurate for the reason that the United States census figures show that during the period 1923 to 1929, inclusive, approximately 450,000 persons were engaged in the industry.

"This being true, then we contend that the adoption of a thirty-five-hour schedule will provide nearly normal employment of the approximately 100,000 unemployed than will the proposed forty-hour schedule."

A. F. of L. Building Trades Department Selects O'Neill for Secretary-Treasurer

Washington.—The executive council of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor appointed William O'Neill of Atlantic City, N. J., to fill the unexpired term of the deceased secretary-treasurer, Matt J. Bigenpie.

Mr. O'Neill has been general organizer of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada for the past four years and a business representative of the Atlantic City Plumbers' Union for a long period. He will assume his official duties with the Building Trades Department on September 1.

30-Hour Week and Minimum Wage Prescribed For $400,000,000 Federal Public Road Fund

Washington.—Colonel Donald Sawyer, Public Works administrator, announced the allotment of $400,000,000 in Federal public road funds to the States and Territories under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Law.

Labor Regulations

The rules and regulations covering the use of the funds include the following provisions:

A maximum thirty-hour week must be observed "so far as practicable and feasible."

No convict labor shall be employed.

The maximum of human labor must be used in lieu of machinery "where consistent with sound economy."

Contractors must maintain minimum wage rates, which must be sufficient to provide "a standard of living in decency and comfort."

The right is reserved to require consultation and approval by the Federal Coordinator of Transportation to replace branch-line railroad service proposed by the Commissioner.

[fact that the hours of work increased from 43.9 per week to 47.9.

"Production shrinks or expands in proportion to the ebb and flow of purchasing power. The volume of production conditions the volume of profits. Profits curtail production by all sources of wealth and incomes for all attached to the industry.

Boost Wages, Cut Hours

"By putting workers back in the mills at a living wage the cotton goods industry can help to put over the general movement for increased buying power which will in turn create demand for its own product. For cotton goods will be one of the very first to feel the stimulation of growing workers' incomes."

IRONWORKERS OUST FIVE OFFICIALS FROM UNION

New Jersey Men Found Guilty of Misuse of Power—President Morrin Conducts Prosecution

St. Louis, Mo.—The general executive board of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers found five New Jersey labor leaders guilty of misuse of their powers after a long meeting here and expelled the men from membership in the union.

The trial attracted wide attention in labor circles, where it was interpreted as part of a campaign by organized labor to purge its ranks of subversive elements.

The ousted men are: T. M. Brandle, business agent of the Jersey City local of the iron workers' union, president of the New Jersey State Building Trades Council, president of the Jersey City Building Trades Council, and a powerful figure in New Jersey politics; John Delaney and Harry Newman, officers of the Jersey City iron workers' local; Thomas J. Sherlock, business agent of the Newark local, and Thomas J. Kelly, business agent of the Perth Amboy, N. J., local.

Paul J. Morrin, general president of the Internationalist Association, personally filed the charges against the men. In the trial here he disqualified himself as presiding member of the general executive board in order that he might take the floor and conduct the prosecution, acting as the trial committee from New Jersey.

Morrin declared in particularize on the charges against the men, but said they involved numerous acts considered prejudicial to the welfare of the union, and were the outcome of a lengthy investigation.

He stated the organization is determined to "go the limit to correct any such action and give the fullest protection to the American Federation of Labor in any action it may take."

The men have the right to appeal to the general executive council, consisting of the international president and, failing there, to take their case to the floor of the international convention, which holds its next session in 1936.

The accused men were present at the trial and defended themselves. The hearing was held at the Statler hotel and consumed twenty hours.

In these cases," stated Morrin, "we moved immediately upon receipt of bona fide signed charges.

"We act fairly in this instance but in any others throughout the country we will move to eliminate any interfering situation, affecting any of our members, which is called to our attention in the proper manner, and we will go to the limit in cooperating with the American Federation of Labor in any campaign against racketeering in the ranks of organized labor."

Morrin further will give full cooperation to the Federal Government in bringing about industrial enforcement of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and will confer in Washington with Johnson and his assistant, Edward F. McGrady, in any efforts they may make to drive the racketeer out of labor."

NO SALARY FOR RECEIVERS OF N. Y. TRADE UNION

New York.—Tough sledding, but receivers appointed last winter for Loew Film and Picture Machine Operators' Union have "worked several months for nothing," the Appellate Court rules. Not only are Messrs. Rosenbaum, Alger and Dunn denied $7,500 allowance made them by Supreme Court Justice Levy, but they must dig into their own purses for $900 expenses they ran up during their illegal tenure of office.

Saddler still, if that may be, their attorneys, after fighting the case through three courts, will get but their $3,000 counsel fees. The receivers originally were appointed by Supreme Court Justice Cohn over the protest of union officials.

International President William C. Elliott, through attorneys Rubien and Brigdt, fought the case through to its successful conclusion.

TWO INTERNATIONAL HAT UNIONS AGREE ON MERGER

New York.—Agreement on a merger of the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union and the United Hatters of North America is announced. The amalgamated unions will have jurisdiction over 50,000 workers in the hat, cap and millinery industries.

The consummation of the first merger of two of its internationals in the history of the American Federation of Labor was announced jointly by Max Zaritsky, president of the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers, and Martin J. Greene, president, and Martin Lawlor, secretary of the United Hatters.

A joint convention will be called promptly to approve the agreement. The merger is expected to end jurisdictional disputes and put the amalgamated international in a stronger position to protect its members in the matter of wages and working conditions to be established by codes presented under the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Low Wages and Long Hours In Dallas Garment Plants

Dallas, Texas.—August Schultz, secretary of the Dallas Central Labor Council, has charged that shocking conditions of work and wages in Dallas garment factories have been revealed by an investigation made by State Labor Commissioner Jack Flynn, Jr., and his assistant in the State Labor Department." Mr. Schultz said, "show that the forty-hour week law is being violated generally, and that many factories work women and children fourteen, and fifteen hours a day."

"The average weekly wage paid in these establishments is only $11.10, and the highest wage the labor deputies found in any factory was $15.60 a week."

Galesburg Labor Temple Has Good Financial Year

Galesburg, Ill.—The Galesburg Labor Temple Association, operating under the direction of the Galesburg Trades and Labor Assembly, reported receipts including last year's balance, of $2,-382.93 for the year, with expenditures totalling $2,178.47, leaving a cash balance of $93.46. H. S. Lucas, secretary-treasurer, reported to the assembly. The major item in the income was $2,421.10 received from rents.

Editorials

An Important Compensation Decision

The Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia has handed down an important decision in a workmen's compensation case involving the status of labor unions as employers and the dividing line between employes and officials.

Opie F. Lindsay was the business agent for the Lathers' International Union, Local No. 9, Washington, D. C. Acting in this capacity he went to Fredericksburg, Va., to investigate certain charges concerning labor conditions. While returning from Fredericksburg his automobile came into a collision with a passing motor vehicle, and Lindsay received injuries from which he died.

Mrs. Clara A. Lindsay, his widow, filed a claim for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act of the District of Columbia. The claim was allowed by Deputy Commissioner Hoage of the United States Employes' Compensation Commission, charged with administering the act.

The insurance carrier of Lathers' Local Union No. 9 contested the claim on the ground that Lindsay was not an "employe" of the union within the meaning of the act, but an "official," and consequently not covered by the contract of insurance.

The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia upheld the award of the Deputy Commissioner. The insurance carrier thereupon carried the case to the Court of Appeals, whose decision now sustains the finding of the lower court.

In support of its decision the Court of Appeals declared that the Lathers' Local Union was an employer and that Lindsay when he met his death was an employe within the purview of the statute, and that at the time of the accident he was the business agent of the union performing duties defined by the union's constitution. The court added:

"In the present case we think that inasmuch as the insurance carrier insured the labor union for the protection of its employes, among whom the business agent was known to be numbered, and received and retained its money for such insurance, it cannot complain if the courts call upon it to perform its contract in the spirit in which it was made."

In judicial circles it is believed that the decision of the Court of Appeals will stand as a precedent holding that employes of a labor union, and the union itself, come within the protection of the Workmen's Compensation Law.

The briefs supporting the claim of Mrs. Lindsay and the award made by Deputy Commissioner Hoage were prepared by the United States Employes' Compensation Commission.

"Stretch-Out" System Under Fire

Organized Labor commends General Hugh S. Johnson, National Industrial Recovery Administrator, for his action in appointing a committee to investigate the stretch-out system in cotton mills for the purpose of determining whether, in the interest of work for the jobless, a curb on the system should be placed in the fair competition code for the cotton textile industry.

The stretch-out system is a plan whereby textile employers compel mill workers to operate a larger and larger number of looms.

The matter was brought to the attention of General Johnson by Senator Byrnes of North Carolina during the hearings on the fair competition code for the cotton textile industry prepared by the cotton manufacturers. Senator Byrnes said that unless the code contained restrictions on the number of looms per weaver he felt that many mills would defeat the real intent of the Industrial Recovery Act, which is to increase employment. He cited one mill where seventy persons were employed in the card room in 1929, while in 1933 the same machinery is operated by forty-five employes.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, approved the appointment of the committee. He said:

"There is great danger that mills will increase the number of machines tended by one worker and thus defeat the purpose of the Recovery Act. The stretch-out system, even before the depression, was bitterly resented by the workers. We had strike after strike because of it.

"We have authentic information that in 1928 in one Southern mill workers were stretched out from thirty looms to forty looms and in 1929 from forty to forty-eight looms. In another mill weavers were stretched out from forty-eight to ninety-six looms.

There is no question that increasing the machine load is a grave danger to the purpose we are all trying to accomplish."

General Johnson appointed the following committee to investigate the system and make a report to him by July 15: Robert W. Bruere of the Bureau of Industrial Research; George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America and a member of the Labor Advisory Board to the Industrial Recovery Administration; and George S. Harris of Charlotte, N. C., representing the cotton textile employers.

Child Labor in Cotton Industry

One of organized labor's major policies for the protection of children was realized when the cotton manufacturers consented to include a ban on the employment of children under 16 in the fair competition code for the cotton goods industry under consideration by the National Industrial Recovery Administration.

The first convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in 1881, condemned child labor with the following declaration:

"We are in favor of the passage of laws in the several States forbidding the employment of children under the age of 14 in any capacity under penalty of fine and imprisonment."

From 1881 to the present the Federation has fought for the abolition of child labor in every possible way. It has insisted that children should be in the school or playground and not in the factory. It has used its influence to secure the enactment of many State child labor laws. It vigorously supported the two Federal laws barring the products of child labor from interstate commerce. It has persistently recommended the adoption of the Federal child labor amendment conferring upon Congress the power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age.

The American Federation of Labor believes that child labor should be prohibited in every industry and will endeavor to have the child labor ban written into the cotton goods industry code included in all other fair competition codes which come before the National Industrial Recovery Administration.

Watch the Thirty-Hour Week

Workers throughout the United States should carefully watch the administration by the various States of the $400,000,000 which has been allotted by Colonel Donald Sawyer, Public Works Administrator, to State authorities for public roads construction.

The thirty-hour week is mandatory "so far as practicable and feasible." The maximum of human labor must be employed in lieu of machinery "where consistent with sound economy." Minimum wage rates sufficient "to provide a standard of living in decency and comfort" must be paid.

All of these requirements are capable of being interpreted and applied against the workers by administrators and contractors hostile to the spirit of the law. Close watching by the workers will prevent this and secure for them their full rights in the expenditure of the huge $400,000,000 fund.

Texas Minister Endorses Organized Labor Movement

Fort Worth, Texas.—Strong support of organized labor as an institution to protect the workers against long hours, low wages and other unjust conditions was expressed by the Rev. J. Leslie Pinnell, pastor of the Magnolia Avenue Christian Church here.

"I am in sympathy with all men who work for a livelihood and I cannot comprehend how any man who believes in the Christian religion can be opposed to organized labor," he said.

"I believe workers have a right to organize for their mutual protection and benefit. Here in Fort Worth, in many of the workers against long hours, stores in which the employes are unorganized, store help is compelled to work unreasonably long hours, ten, twelve, sometimes fourteen hours and frequently on Sundays. I hope the time will come when these workers will organize and correct this condition."